

ABSTRACT

An auxiliary device (10) for use with a UE device (12) such as a mobile phone, including: an interface (10a) with the UE device (12), providing at least part of an AUX-UE coupling (11a)--a wireless or plug connection--to the UE device (12); and a short-range transceiver (10b) (e.g. a Bluetooth transceiver), coupled to the interface (10a) with the UE device (12), for wirelessly communicating with short-range transceivers of peer devices (i.e. devices operated by users).

The UE device (12) includes an AUX user interface (14b) providing a user interface to the apparatus (10) and operative in combination with a UE user interface (14a) included as part of the UE device (12). The short-range transceiver (10b) of the auxiliary device (10) typically has a longer range than is usual for such a transceiver. The auxiliary device (10) typically includes components enabling various user-user communications/ interactions with nearby peer devices.